

In the present Amendment, claims 1 and 6 have been cancelled; claims 2 and 7 have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention and claims 3, 4 and 5 have been amended to address their dependency. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 stand as rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has deleted claims 1 and 6. Additionally, Applicant has amended claims 2 and 7 in order to provide the necessary antecedent basis, and thus, more clearly define the present invention.

With respect to the Examiner's request for clarity for the term "out-roll" in claim 7, Applicant refers the Examiner to Figure 1 and page 10, lines 1-5.

The amendments to the language of the claims have been made solely to provide clarity and not in avoidance of any reference or rejection set forth by the Office. Accordingly, in light of the noted amendments and explanation, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 / 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 3-5 stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,073,235 (Trokhan).

Applicant responds that claim 1 has been deleted and claims 3-5 have been amended to depend from amended claim 2. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent 5,073,235 (Trokhan).

Applicant responds that claim 6 has been deleted, and thus, respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

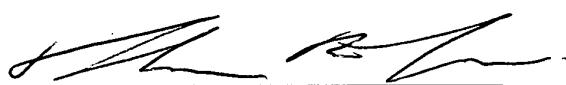
The Examiner has indicated that claims 2 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth in the current Office Action. The Examiner states that the primary reason for indicating allowable subject matter is that the cited prior art does not show a method of preventing contamination of a canvas for pressing a paper strip against the surface of drum-dryers used for drying the paper strip, where in said method a silicone oil is supplied to the surface of a canvas roll (claim 2), or to an out-roll (claim 7).

Summary

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, §112, second paragraph, §102(b) and §103(a) have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot, and a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action dated October 16, 2002. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

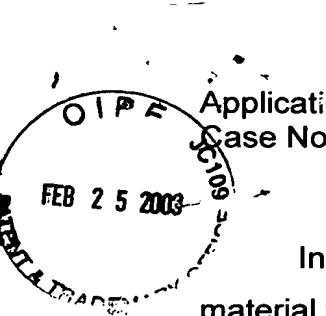
There is a fee for a one-month extension of the period for reply due in connection with the filing of this Response. However, should a fee be due which is not accounted for, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 501447 (Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP).

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In showing the changes, the material to be deleted is in brackets and the material to be inserted is underlined.

Claim 2. (Amended) A method of preventing contamination of a canvas for pressing a paper strip against a [the] surface of drum-dryers used for drying the paper strip in a paper machine, whereby a silicone oil is continuously supplied at a spray rate of 0.1 to 200 mg / m² per minute to a [the] surface of canvas rolls for guiding the canvas, in a stage of operation prior to the paper strip being pressed into contact with the canvas as well as the drum-dryers, while the paper strip is being fed by operation of the paper machine.

Claim 3. (Amended) A method of preventing contamination of the canvas according to Claim [1 or] 2, wherein [a] the silicon oil is emulsified with a surfactant [is used].

Claim 4. (Amended) A method of preventing contamination of the canvas according to Claim [1 or] 2, wherein the silicon oil is further diluted with water [before being put to use].

Claim 5. (Amended) A method of preventing contamination of the canvas according to Claim [1 or] 2, wherein the silicon oil is diluted with water heated to a temperature in the range of 50 to 80°C immediately before spraying [is put to use].

Claim 7. (Amended) A method of preventing contamination of a canvas for pressing a paper strip against a [the] surface of drum-dryers used for drying the paper strip in a paper machine, said method comprising the following steps 1) to 5):
1) [the silicone oil supply step for] supplying a silicone oil to a [the] surface of an out-roll;

- 2) [the silicone oil shifting step for] shifting the silicone oil from the surface of the out-roll to the canvas;
- 3) [the silicone oil permeation and adhesion step for] causing the silicone oil to permeate through the canvas and adhere to the surface thereof under heat and pressure;
- 4) [the silicone oil transfer step for] pressing a paper strip against the canvas, causing the silicone oil to be transferred to the paper strip; and
- 5) [the silicone oil replenishment step for] replenishing the silicone oil depleted after transferred from the canvas.